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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/670,733	09/26/2003	Julien Lefebvre	051173-5004-US	6762
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MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP 1111 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW WASHINGTON, DC 20004			HON, SOW FUN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1772	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action SummaryApplication No. **10/670,733**

Applicant(s)

LEFEBVRE ET AL.

Examiner

Sow-Fun Hon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/04, 2/05, 3/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-32, drawn to a product, classified in class 428, subclass 143.
 - II. Claim 33, drawn to a process, classified in class 264, subclass 211.12.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions II and I are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the elastomeric film can be made by casting instead of extruding the resin using a blown-film processing machine.
3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
4. During a telephone conversation with Gregory Loven on February 23, 2005, a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-32. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claim 33 is withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.
5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the

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currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Drawings

6. The drawings are objected to because the photocopy reproductions are not clear. Figures 3, 5, 9, 13-15, 17, 19-20 contain details which cannot be readily distinguished, especially the ones where data points represented by symbols are compared. Optimization of the light and contrast settings for the photocopy machine should work for the photographs and bar charts. Enlargement and change of the layout to landscape should work for the comparative data point graphs. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will

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be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 2, 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In an elastomeric film containing three or more layers, it is unclear as to which layer is the at least one layer containing the anti-skid additive. By common definition, an anti-skid layer prevents surface skid or slip, and should therefore be the outermost layer. While Applicant supports the general common definition with examples (pages 4-5), Applicant appears to present a broader definition later on in the specification, by stating that the anti-skid additive can be present in any of the layers (page 20), which can mean that the outermost layer may not contain the anti-skid additive, in which case, the anti-skid additive becomes a filler when it is present in an intermediate layer.

9. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear from the specification how the adjective “advanced” distinguishes an advanced Ziegler-Natta catalyst over a common Ziegler-Natta catalyst.

10. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as

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the invention. It is unclear from the specification what the composition is of the first polyolefin plastomer or of the second polyolefin plastomer.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 1-6, 11-12, 14-15, 20-22, 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lefebvre et al. (US 5,732,745) in view of Hanson et al. (US 3,283,992) and Miller et al. (US 3,981,820), as evidenced by Miyashita et al. (US 5,236,483).

Regarding claims 1, 21-22, Lefebvre has an elastomeric (elastic) film (column 2, lines 5-7) comprising at least one layer and having a total thickness of from about 3.6 to 4.4 mils (column 5, lines 10-15) which is within the claimed thickness of from about 1 mil to about 15 mil. Lefebvre teaches that the film is made into packaging (tube) (column 4, lines 30-35). Lefebvre fails to teach that the film comprises at least one layer comprising an anti-skid additive.

Hanson teaches that it is well known in the art to add anti-skid additives (to increase the coefficient of friction) to the plastic material itself (column 1, lines 45-54) so that bags made from the plastic material do not slip when stacked upon each other particularly during transportation of the filled bags (column 1, lines 30-35). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have added an anti-skid

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additive to the outer surface layer of the film packaging of Lefebvre, in order to provide stacking stability during transportation of the filled packages, as taught by Hanson.

Hanson fails to teach that the anti-skid additive is particulate or that it has a melt temperature is greater than 500 °F.

Miller teaches an antiskid additive (agent) with a particle size (diameter) from 50 to 150 microns (column 2, lines 10-20), which overlaps the claimed range of between 50 and 500 microns (claim 1), of between 60 and 250 microns (claim 21), and of between 60 and 180 microns (claim 22), based on silica (column 2, lines 15-20). The silica melt temperature is greater than 500 °F, as evidenced by Miyashita.

Miyashita teaches that the melting point of silica is 3115 °F (1713 °C) (column 4, lines 20-25), which is greater than 500 °F. The high melting point of the silica anti-skid additive allows it to retain its particulate dimensions during processing of the film of Lefebvre in view of Hanson, in order to retain the surface roughness and hence anti-skid function.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have used a silica anti-skid additive, as taught by Miller, to the outer surface layer of the film packaging of Lefebvre in view of Hanson, in order to maintain the anti-skid function provided by the silica due to its high temperature stability during processing.

Regarding claim 2, Lefebvre teaches that the film can multi-ply (column 5, lines 20-30), hence overlapping the claimed range of between 2 and 11 layers. The layers may have the same or different thicknesses (column 5, lines 30-35). In the case of the two-ply film with the same thickness, each layer will make up 50 % of the total thickness of the film, which is within the claimed range of from 5 to 95 %.

Regarding claims 3, 5-6, Lefebvre teaches that at least one layer comprises 55 to 90 % by weight of an ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer (column 2, lines 15-20), which overlaps the claimed range of 10 to 100 % (claim 3), 10 to 95 % (claim 5) and 25 to 85 % (claim 6).

Regarding claim 4, Lefebvre teaches that the vinyl acetate content of the EVA copolymer is 2 to 6 % (column 3, lines 44-45), which overlaps the claimed range of from 2 to 45 %.

Regarding claims 11, 14-15, Lefebvre teaches that the at least one layer comprises from 5 to 35 % by weight of a copolymer of linear low density polyethylene (column 2, lines 15-20), which overlaps the claimed range of 5 to 100 % (claim 11), of 10 to 95 % (claim 14), and of 15 to 75 % (claim 15), having a density of from 0.915 to 0.925, which is greater than 0.910 g/cm³.

Regarding claim 12, Lefebvre teaches DOWLEX-2021, DOWLEX 2045, DOWLEX 2070, DOWLEX-2073, DOWLEX-2101, L-2007-F, L-2001-F AND L-2002-F as suitable LLDPE resins (column 3, lines 65-70 and column 4, lines 1-5), which are the same LLDPE resins used by Applicant, and therefore are pure copolymers of a C₄-C₂₀ alpha-olefin as defined by Applicant (page 7).

Regarding claim 13, Lefebvre teaches that the copolymer of LLDPE has a melt index of from 0.5 to 1.6 g/10 min (dg/min) (column 3, lines 64-66), which overlaps the claimed range of between 0.1 and 30 g/10 min.

Regarding claim 20, Lefebvre teaches that the at least one layer comprised a combination of at least two resins, EVA copolymer and LLDPE (column 2, lines 15-20).

Claims 21-22 have been discussed above.

Regarding claim 24, Lefebvre teaches that the at least one layer comprises a UV stabilizer, a pigment, a slip agent and an antiblocking agent (column 3, lines 20-35).

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13. Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lefebvre in view of Miller and Miyashita as applied to claims 1-6, 11-12, 14-15, 20-22, 24 above, and further in view of Erderly et al. (US 5,451,450).

Lefebvre in view of Miller and Miyashita has been discussed above, and fails to teach a polyolefin plastomer having a density of 0.910 g/cm^3 or lower.

Erderly teaches a polyolefin plastomer with a density of 0.900 g/cm^3 (column 3, lines 30-35) (claim 7), which is a metallocene catalyzed copolymer (column 4, lines 31-41) with a melt index in the range of about 0.5 to 50 g/10 min. (dg/min) (column 6, line 66) which overlaps the claimed range of from 0.1 to 30 g/10 min (claim 8). Although Erderly teaches that the preferred catalyst is a metallocene (column 4, lines 39-41), Erderly does not preclude a Ziegler-Natta catalyst (column 7, lines 21) as long as the resultant composition distribution is the same as that produced by the metallocene catalyst (column, lines 9-15) (claim 9). Erderly teaches that the POP is a copolymer of ethylene and a C_3 to C_{20} alpha-olefin (column 3, lines 50-55), which overlaps the claimed range of C_4 to C_{20} alpha-olefin (claim 10).

Erderly teaches that the polyolefin plastomer is an elastomer (column 3, lines 30-35) suitable for improving the elasticity (unload power) of thin elastic films (column 8, lines 45-55).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have added a plastomer to the anti-skid layer of the elastomeric film of Lefebvre in view of Miller and Miyashita, in order to improve its elasticity.

14. Claims 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lefebvre in view of Miller and Miyashita as applied to claims 1-6, 11-12, 14-15, 20-22, 24 above, and further in view of Falla et al. (US 5,879,768).

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Lefebvre in view of Miller and Miyashita has been discussed above, and fails to teach a 5 to 100 % of low density polyethylene having a density between 0.910 and 0.930 g/cm³.

Falla teaches that low density polyethylene has a density of about 0.916 to about 0.930 g/cm³ which is inside the claimed range of between 0.910 and 0.930 g/cm³ (claim 16), and has a melt index of about 0.1 to about 10 g/10 min (column 8, lines 7-15). Falla teaches the addition of 20 % by weight in the examples (column 12, lines 50-60), which is within the claimed range of 5 to 100 % (claim 16), of 10 to 95 % (claim 18) and of 15 to 75 % (claim 19), which are overlapped by Falla's teaching of a broad range of 0 to 90 percent in the claims (column 21, lines 50-55). Falla teaches that LDPE has high melt strength and provides film packages that can be made fast and has few leaks (column 8, lines 28-35). This means that the LDPE is mechanically strong even in the melt, and retains its matrix coherency even when subjected to melt shear from particular additives.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have added low density polyethylene having a density between 0.910 and 0.930 g/cm³ to the anti-skid layer of the elastomeric film of Lefebvre in view of Miller and Miyashita, in order to provide it with high melt strength during formation of the film, as taught by Falla.

15. Claims 1, 23, 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mandzsu, Sen et al. (US 6444,080) in view of Karaiwa (US 6,706,385).

Regarding claims 1, 23, Mandzsu, Sen. teaches a thermoplastic film which is roughened by polymer particles which have a suitable size and abrasion resistance on the surface of the film, in order to prevent the packaging films from skidding, or slipping on each other (abstract).

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The film has a total thickness of 6mil (0.150 mm) (column 7, lines 65-68) which is within the claimed range of from about 1 mil to about 15 mil.

Although Mandzsu, Sen. fails to teach that the film is elastomeric, elastomeric films used in packaging are notoriously well known in the art. The elasticity of the film allows accommodation of stresses and strains placed on the film during handling and transportation of the packaged article. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have used a film which is elastomeric as the packaging film of Mandzsu, Sen., in order to accommodate stresses and strains placed on the film during handling and transportation of the packaged article.

Mandzsu, Sen. teaches that the anti-skid polypropylene has a particle size of 100 to 200 microns (column 8, lines 47-50), which is within the claimed range of between 50 and 500 microns.

Mandzsu, Sen. fails to teach that the amount of the anti-skid polypropylene additive, or that it has a melt temperature greater than 500 °F.

Karaiwa teaches an ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene as being equivalent to polypropylene (column 6, lines 45-55), in terms of functioning as a suitable filler with a diameter of 1 to 100 microns (column 6, lines 40-45), which overlaps the claimed range of between 50 and 500 microns. The ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene is used in an amount of 1 to 300 parts by weight (column 6, lines 59-65), which overlaps the claimed amount of from 0.1 to 10 %. Ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene has a melt temperature greater than 500 °F as defined by Applicant's specification (original claim 23). The high melt temperature of greater than 500

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°F allows the UHMWPE particles to retain their particulate dimensions during heat processing of the film article.

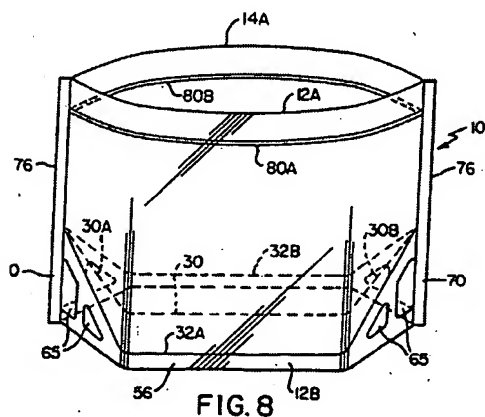
Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have used ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene particles in place of the polypropylene particles of Mandzsu, Sen., in order to preserve the surface roughness and hence anti-skid function of the anti-skid layer during heat processing of the film article.

Regarding claim 30, Mandzsu, Sen. teaches that the film is in the form of a pre-folded gusseted film (column 8, lines 15-25).

16. Claims 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mandzsu, Sen in view of Karaiwa as applied to claims 1, 23, 30 above, and further in view of Erickson et al. (US 4,954,124).

Mandzsu, Sen in view of Karaiwa fails to teach the details of the gusseted film.

In Fig. 8 below, Erickson teaches a pre-folded gusseted film having two opposing film panels 12, 14, a closed edge 12B and a parallel open edge 12A extending along the length opposite the closed edge 12B, wherein the two opposing film panels 12, 14 are connected at the closed edge and the gusset is formed along the length of the film at the closed edge.



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In Fig. 8 above, Erickson teaches that the parallel open edge of the film corresponds to an edge of the first film panel, 12A, and an edge of the second film panel, 14A. Although Erickson fails to teach an inwardly folded lip formed at each edge 12A, 14A of the film panels 12, 14, an inwardly folded lip at each edge, which keeps the collapsed bag open before filling, and then sealed after filling, is notoriously well known in the art.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have used the gusseted film bag design of Erickson, along with an inwardly folded lip at each edge of the film panels, for the gusseted film bag of Mandzsu, Sen in view of Karaiwa, in order to provide a packaging film bag with the desired combination of bottom gusseted expansion, fillability and sealability.

17. Claims 1, 25, 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anthony et al. (US 4,399, 173) in view of in view of Hanson et al. (US 3,283,992) and Miller et al. (US 3,981,820), as evidenced by Miyashita et al. (US 5,236,483).

Anthony teaches a film which consists of three layers that are an inside layer, a core layer and an outside layer (column 3, lines 55-60), wherein the inside layer is about 14 % of the total thickness, the core layer is about 72 % of the total thickness and the outside layer is about 14 % of the total thickness (about 1:5:1 ratio) (column 3, lines 55-60). Although Anthony fails to specify the claimed 20 % total thickness for the inside layer, 60 % total thickness for the core layer, and 20 % total thickness for outside layer, which corresponds to a 1:3:1 ratio, because Anthony teaches that even lower ratio of thicknesses between the core layer and the outer layers are acceptable (column 3, lines 53-61), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have used the claimed 20 % total thickness for the

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inside layer, 60 % total thickness for the core layer, and 20 % total thickness for outside layer, which corresponds to a lower 1:3:1 ratio between the core layer and the outer layers, in order to obtain the desired laminate, as taught by Anthony.

Anthony teaches that the inside, core and outer layers comprises 100 % linear low density polyethylene (column 4, lines 45-60). The film composition is the same, and is thus elastomeric as defined by Applicant's specification (original claim 29).

Anthony fails to teach that at least one layer comprises an anti-skid additive.

Hanson teaches that it is well known in the art to add anti-skid additives (to increase the coefficient of friction) to the plastic material itself (column 1, lines 45-54) so that bags made from the plastic material do not slip when stacked upon each other particularly during transportation of the filled bags (column 1, lines 30-35). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have added an anti-skid additive to the outer surface layer of the film packaging of Anthony, in order to provide stacking stability during transportation of the filled packages, as taught by Hanson.

Hanson fails to teach that the anti-skid additive is particulate or that it has a melt temperature is greater than 500 °F.

Miller teaches an antiskid additive (agent) with a particle size (diameter) from 50 to 150 microns (column 2, lines 10-20), which overlaps the claimed range of between 50 and 500 microns (claim 1), of between 60 and 250 microns (claim 21), and of between 60 and 180 microns (claim 22), based on silica (column 2, lines 15-20). The silica melt temperature is greater than 500 °F, as evidenced by Miyashita.

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Miyashita teaches that the melting point of silica is 3115 °F (1713 °C) (column 4, lines 20-25), which is greater than 500 °F. The high melting point of the silica anti-skid additive allows it to retain its particulate dimensions during processing of the film of Anthony in view of Hanson, in order to retain the surface roughness and hence anti-skid function.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have used a silica anti-skid additive, as taught by Miller, to the outer surface layer of the film packaging of Anthony in view of Hanson, in order to maintain the anti-skid function provided by the silica due to its high temperature stability during processing.

Allowable Subject Matter

18. Claim 27 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has demonstrated unexpected results in terms of film mechanical properties in using the specific elastomeric film, with a total thickness of from about 1 mil to about 15 mil, consisting of three layers, wherein a) the inside layer is 20% of the total thickness and comprises 50% ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) copolymer, having 6% vinyl acetate by weight, and 50% low density polyethylene; (b) the core layer is 60% of the total thickness and comprises 60% EVA copolymer, having 6% vinyl acetate by weight, and 40% linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE) copolymer; and (c) the outside layer is 20% of the total thickness and comprises 52% EVA copolymer, having 6% vinyl acetate by weight, 35% LLDPE copolymer and 13% calcium carbonate; wherein the outside layer comprises from 0.1

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to 10 % of an anti-skid additive which has a particle size of between 50 and 500 microns and does not melt, or has a melt temperature greater than 500 °F. See Applicant's specification (page 20).


Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sow-Fun Hon whose telephone number (571)272-1492. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon, can be reached on (571)272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Sow-Fun Hon

03/18/05


HAROLD PYON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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3/21/05